

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on May 25, 2004. Claims 1, 4-6, and 8-23 are amended. Claims 2, 3, and 7 are cancelled.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected as failing to comply with the enabling requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-13 have been rejected as being indefinite. Claims 11-13 are amended herein to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-13, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suverison (US 3,649,098).

Claims 1, 10, 14-16, and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chown (US 4,290,667).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Amended claim 1 is based on original claims 1, 2, and 7. Claims 2, 3, and 7 are cancelled. Claims 11-13 are amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 8 is amended into dependent form. The remaining claims are amended to conform to the amendments made to claim 1.

Claim 1 now sets forth an optical projection system comprising an optical element for shaping radiation fields emitted from a light guide, in accordance with the embodiment shown in Figures 1-3. The optical element is formed in a monolithic body having a radiation-field-shaping region and a connecting region for the light guide. The connecting region has a connecting area for accepting a front face of the light guide. The connecting area is adapted approximately to a diameter of the light guide. A carrier is provided which extends outside the radiation-field-shaping region and adjacent the connecting region. The connecting region extending beyond a side of the carrier to form a free standing projection with the connecting area on an end face of

said projection.

The carrier may be part of the monolithic body (as shown in Figure 1). In an alternate embodiment as shown in Figure 7, the carrier may be separate from the monolithic body, such that the monolithic body comprises only the radiation field shaping region and the connecting region.

With the optical projection system set forth in Applicants' claim 1, the connecting area, which is adapted to the diameter of a light guide to be connected, is provided on the end face of a free standing projection which extends beyond the side of the carrier. The advantage of this arrangement is that the connection of such a connecting area with a front face of a light guide can be accomplished in a very precise manner. Such a precise connection can be achieved, for example, using the self-centering effect obtained by using a liquid medium that centers the front face of the light guide more or less exactly on the connecting area.

Discussion of Suverison

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-13, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Suverison. This rejection is respectfully traversed. An anticipation rejection requires that each and every element of the claimed invention as set forth in the claim be provided in the cited reference. See *Akamai Technologies Inc. v. Cable & Wireless Internet Services Inc.*, 68 USPQ2d 1186 (CA FC 2003), and cases cited therein. As discussed in detail below, Suverison does not meet the requirements for an anticipation rejection.

Suverison discloses a self-retaining fiber optic lens. A rearward socket portion 18 has an annular side wall 40 which defines with the bottom wall 19 an axially extending recess 41 for receiving one end of a fiber optic bundle 42. The fiber optic bundle has an end connector 44 in the form of a ferrule crimped thereon. The rearward socket portion also includes a retaining means 45 for cooperably engaging a circumferentially extending flange 44a on the end connector 44 (Col. 3, lines 44-55; Figures 1-4)

As can be seen from Figures 1 and 3 of Suverison, the fiber optic bundle 42 is held in recess 41 formed by the side wall 40 and the bottom wall 19. In contrast, with Applicants'

invention, the connecting region extends beyond a side of the carrier to form a free standing projection. Applicants' connecting area for accepting the front face of the light guide is formed on an end face of this free standing projection.

Therefore, the teaching of Suverison is opposite that of the present invention, which is readily apparent by comparing Figure 1 of Suverison with Figure 1 of Applicants' invention. Suverison teaches holding the light guide in a recess 41 shown in Figure 1. In contrast, the present invention teaches holding of the light guide on an end face of a free standing projection (e.g., connecting area 22 of connecting region 16 shown in Applicants' Figure 1).

Therefore, Suverison does not disclose or remotely suggest an optical projection system having a carrier extending outside the radiation-field-shaping region and adjacent the connecting region, where the connecting region extends beyond a side of the carrier to form a free standing projection having the connecting area on an end face of said projection, as claimed by Applicants.

As Suverison does not disclose each and every element of the invention as claimed, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are believed to be improper, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. See, *Akamai Technologies Inc., supra*.

Discussion of Chown

Claims 1, 10, 14-16, and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chown (US 4,290,667). This rejection is respectfully traversed. An anticipation rejection requires that each and every element of the claimed invention as set forth in the claim be provided in the cited reference. See *Akamai Technologies Inc. v. Cable & Wireless Internet Services Inc.*, 68 USPQ2d 1186 (CA FC 2003), and cases cited therein. As discussed in detail below, Chown does not meet the requirements for an anticipation rejection.

Chown discloses an optical fiber termination and connection. Chown discloses that the optical fiber 23 is connected to a molded body 21 such that its end 25 is positioned in a bore 24 of the body 21.

Therefore, like Suverison discusses above, a recess (bore 24) is provided for the optical fiber, rather than a connecting area for accepting the front face of the light guide which is formed

on an end face of a free standing projection, as claimed by Applicants. Therefore, the arguments set forth above with regard to Suverison are equally applicable to Chown.

Chown does not disclose or remotely suggest an optical projection system having a carrier extending outside the radiation-field-shaping region and adjacent the connecting region, where the connecting region extends beyond a side of the carrier to form a free standing projection having the connecting area on an end face of said projection, as claimed by Applicants.

As Chown does not disclose each and every element of the invention as claimed, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are believed to be improper, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. See, *Akamai Technologies Inc., supra*.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by and would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art in view of Suverison or Chown, taken alone or in combination with any of the other prior art of record.

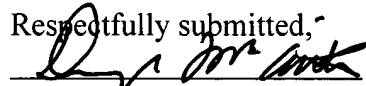
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the foregoing discussion. Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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